

IV. REMARKS

In the Official Action, objections were made to various ones of the claims, as set forth in Point 1 of the Action, the claims having been amended to overcome these objections. Claim 39 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite for reasons set forth in the Action. Claim 39 is amended for further clarity, thereby to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-10, 14-16, 18-19, 30-32, 34-36 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Bradley (US 6,262,637), Claims 1-3, 6, 13-16, 19, 30-31, 33-35, 37 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Yuda (EP 1,030,448), Claims 1-2, 4-6, 13-15, 17-19 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Sakamoto (JP 7-74584), and Claims 1, 6, 13-14, 19, 30-31, 33-35, 37-39 and 41-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Nishihara (JP 10-303,698) for reasons set forth in the Action.

Claims 21-29 have been allowed, and claims 7, 11-12, 20, 40 and 43 are said to have allowable subject matter.

Typographical errors noted in the specification are corrected.

Claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of its dependent claim 7, thereby to secure allowance of claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-6, 8-10 and 13. Claim 7 has been cancelled in view of the inclusion of its subject matter into claim 1. Claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form so as to secure its allowance and the allowance of its dependent claim 12.

Claim 14 is amended to include the subject matter of its dependent claim 20, thereby to secure allowance of claim 14 and its dependent claims 15-19. Claim 20 has been cancelled in view of the inclusion of its subject matter into claim 14.

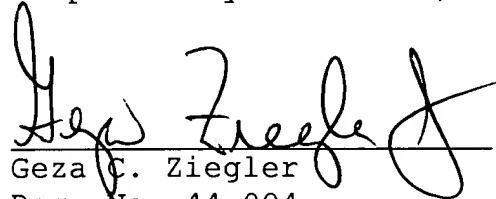
Claims 30, 33 and 34 are amended to include additional structure to distinguish over the teachings of the cited art, thereby to secure their allowance and the allowance of claims depending from the independent claims 30 and 34. Claim 32 is cancelled in view of the inclusion of its subject matter into claim 30.

Claim 38 is amended to include additional structure to distinguish over the teachings of the cited art, thereby to secure allowance of claim 38 and its dependent claim 39. Claim 42 is amended to include the subject matter of its allowable dependent claim 43, so as to obtain allowance of claim 42. Claim 43 is cancelled in view of the inclusion of its subject matter into claim 42.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

A check in the amount of \$278.00 is enclosed for additional claim fees and a one-month extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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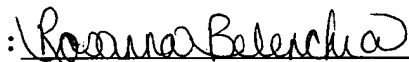
28 Mar 2003
Date

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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